GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:912
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2002
SMUGGLING OF DRUGS AND OPIUM
SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a): whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the frequent reports of On Line illegal trading of psychotropic substances, smuggling of drugs and opium;

(b): if so, the modus operandi adopted for trade in psychotropic substances; and the seizures, if any, made on the basis of investigations made into such reports; and

(c):the effective steps taken to prevent such illicit trade?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : Investigations revealed that the modus operandi was to get orders for drugs, mainly psychotropic, through the web sites on the Internet and to make the despatches against such orders through EMS speed post to the clients in foreign countries by mislabelling the contents to escape the Customs. Payments for the drugs were received through credit cards. Only one case of on-line illegal trading of psychotropic has been detected so far in which 4 persons were arrested and 2654 tablets of various controlled psychotropic substances were seized.

(c) : Misuse of the Internet to provide and sell drugs is an important issue the world over and the 20th session of the UN General Assembly recommended action at the state, regional and international levels to tackle the menace. This issue was also discussed at the 45th session of the Commission on Narcotics Drugs held in Vienna in March 2002. The Government of Indiais also seized of the problem and has asked the enforcement agencies to keep a close watch on such activities with a view to adequately combating the problem.